



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF MEN

Minutes – February 27 2009, 1 – 3:30 PM
Legislative Office Building Room 206 - Concord, NH

Larry distributed nameplates, agendas and January minutes

1. Call to Order/Introduction of the Commissioners – **Commissioner Lauren called the meeting to order at 1:10.** In attendance: **Larry Colby, Mike Geanoulis, David Lauren, Scott Meyer and Cam Sinclair were in attendance. Chairman Joe Mastromarino was in China**
2. Adopt Agenda – **Commissioner Geanoulis asked to add NH House Bills 139, 207 and 209 to the printed agenda. Also to add discussion of the various pending bills dealing with marriage/civil unions. Commissioner Colby moved to adopt the amended agenda with a second from Michael. The motion carried unanimously**
3. Secretary's Report/Approval of January Minutes – **Larry asked that Commissioners also look at November 2008 minutes recently forwarded by Scott Garman, past Secretary. David thanked Larry for preparing the January minutes. David suggesting removal of a line from the introductory paragraph of the minutes and Commissioner Sinclair added a third point to item 6: *Cam said he would contact Ted Smith.* Larry said he would make both corrections. Larry offered a motion to accept the changes to the minutes with a 2nd from Michael and the motion carried. In the November minutes, Mike expanded a point in the last sentence of the 2nd paragraph of the Secretary's Report: *[Mike Geanoulis disagreed]...stating that the primary reason was to talk about organizations being accepted or rejected [for inclusion on the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence].* Larry offered a motion to accept the changes to the November Minutes with a 2nd from Cam and the motion carried. Larry said he would forward both sets of corrected minutes to Scott Garman for inclusion on the NHCSM (NH Commission on the Status of Men) website**
4. Treasurer's Report – **David asked to delay the report until after the break when he and Larry will be seeing Barry Bodell, NH Office of Administrative Services**
5. Web Site Update – **Mike asked about adding a new link at the NHCSM website to NFI (National Fatherhood Initiative). A discussion ensued about a procedure for Commissioners to vote on adding links to the site and whether there was a disclaimer. Larry said there was: *'Note: The NH Commission on the Status of Men does not necessarily endorse any of the above organizations, but lists them here as potentially useful resources for men in NH.'* Commissioners will talk about this issue more fully in March including adding NFI to the NHCSM website**

6. Commission Seat Update – **David suggested adding a potential member and shared that he is a police officer from Manchester. Scott spoke about the ‘ideal’ Commission candidate. Michael mentioned Lewie Bosler who had been rejected by the Governor’s office and suggested that some Commissioners would not mind the Commission failing. A discussion followed. Larry suggested that hard-earned trust had been established between current members and that it would be difficult for any new member to sabotage the Commission or its work. Further he stated that the Governor and Executive Council are totally in charge of adding members. Cam added that Executive Councilor Burton had approached him to serve on the Commission and appealed to Cam’s interests in male suicide/men’s health and men in education. He made the further point that Commissioners talked about many issues facing men in NH. Commissioners agreed that they will contact the Governor’s office individually to encourage the seating of a seventh Commissioner**
7. Child Cost Study – **Michael suggested inviting Mac Smith from UNH (University of New Hampshire) to report on the true costs of raising a child in the state. Commissioners agreed with Mike’s request and he will follow up**
8. Gender Gap Study – **This issue was tabled and Larry said he will follow up with Scott Garman**
9. Elaine Holden-Rivier College/Getting Men Involved – **David would like to invite Professor Holden to a Commission meeting to discuss this issue. Commissioners agreed and David will follow up**
10. Public Input I – **None**

Break - David and Larry went see Barry Bodell to secure two checks for payment: the NE Fathering conference (\$500 dollars) and the parent power ad/display table (\$250).

11. Letter to the NH Attorney General/RSA 633:4 – **Commissioners reviewed the letter (attached) sent to General Ayotte and copied to Chief Ted Smith. Cam said he had also called Smith numerous times. Larry and Cam said neither had received any acknowledgement from either. Members are unsure how to proceed without acknowledgement from these state officials**
12. NH Study of Domestic Violence/Appearance by Grace Mattern – 10 min – **David stated that he would like to ask Grace Mattern to come to the April Commission meeting as Larry will be away and miss the March meeting. Commissioners agreed to this proposal and David will follow up. Michael brought up the fact that a violence against men survey had been completed at UNH (University of New Hampshire) and a report issued (article attached). Mike also reported that the survey authors had used the same methodology as the NH Study of Domestic Violence**
13. Parent Information and Resource Center (NHPIRC)/Brochure Ad – **Scott clarified the advertisement and the cost for a display table. The Commission approved an expenditure of \$250 dollars earlier to support the PIRC ‘Family Engagement-Beyond Policy Into Practice’ workshop and charged Scott with getting the best deal he could. Scott expressed confidence that the brochure ad and table would be mutually beneficial to the Commission and to NHPIRC. The final copy of the ad is attached**

14. Other Agenda Items Brought Forward at Start of Meeting – Mike reported that three bills are under consideration in committee or in the NH House of Representatives:

- a. HB 139 - relative to the determination of parental rights and responsibilities. **Mike offered a motion to support passage of this bill with the understanding that it may allow increased contact between parents and children. David wondered if the bill was necessary and quoted laws already in place. Larry replied that Commission support would indicate its espousal of the principle of contact between children and their parents whenever possible. The motion carried unanimously**
- b. HB 207 - relative to modification of parental rights and responsibilities – **Mike explained that this bill would allow parents to ask courts to accept/modify parenting plans and this could increase contact between parents and their children. He offered a motion to support passage, Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously**
- c. HB 209 - relative to enforcement of parenting plans – **Mike offered a motion to support passage with the understanding that it would amend the period of time in which the court must review motions for contempt from 30 days to ten days. Scott seconded and the motion carried unanimously**
- d. **Mike asked commissioners to discuss various marriage/civil union bills. The commission felt neither qualified nor eager to get into this area. All agreed that Mike could ask that the father/child connection be considered in the deliberation of such bills**

15. Announcements – Cam and Larry reminded Commissioners that they will both be manning a table on March 21 at the NHPIRC (Parent Information and Resource Center) Partnerships for Education at Southern NH University in Manchester

16. Public Input II -None

The meeting ended at 4:05

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Colby, Secretary